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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. O God, our Creator and Preserver, who displays Your glory in the beauty of the seasons, thank You for the light of day and for blessings beyond our deserving. Thank You for the gift of redemption and for the opportunity to be Your salvation instruments in a world of pain. Forgive us when we miss opportunities to reveal Your character to a sometimes cynical world.

Bless Your Senators today. Give them grace to fill every hour with efforts that will truly make a difference. Endow them with insight to solve the riddles that challenge our world. Use each of us, Lord, to advance Your kingdom of good will upon Earth.

We pray this in Your holy Name, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 2 p.m. and then resume consideration of the JOBS bill, also known as FSC/ETI.

As announced by the majority leader before the recess, there will be no roll-

call votes today. Chairman GRASSLEY will be here to work through consideration of pending amendments. We want to encourage Members to come to the floor for debate through the day.

The next vote will occur sometime tomorrow, Tuesday. We will notify all Members when we can lock in a time certain for any rollcall votes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I urge Senators to come to the floor. I was just discussing with the distinguished acting majority leader the schedule for the week. There are a number of amendments that could be offered with time agreements that we might be able to work through reaching an agreement on the overall list of amendments to be offered. Many would like to complete work on the bill. We could at the end of the day have a pretty good vote on the legislation that is pending. There are a number of critical amendments that our colleagues want to have considered, but I think we can work through those on a timely basis.

I look forward to more discussions with our Republican friends with regard to the schedule and the list of amendments to be offered.

GOVERNMENT WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we spend a lot of time here in the Capitol talking about the abstract effects of policy. But when we go home, we see firsthand the challenges and pain so many of our constituents are facing.

I spent the last week in South Dakota. We have a higher percentage of our National Guard and Reserve units

activated than almost any other State. South Dakotans are united in our support for all the men and women who are risking their lives to defend our freedom. We are proud that America looks out for other nations.

But we need to look out for people here at home, too. We need leadership that fights for American workers and families, not against them. That is what I heard, over and over again, from people in South Dakota.

Last Tuesday, I held a town hall meeting in Spearfish, in the Black Hills. Among the people who came were a couple I have known for years.

Donna Smith is a newspaper reporter for the Black Hills Pioneer. She is one of the best journalists in my State; I have tremendous respect for her skill and fairness.

Over the years, I have seen Donna at many meetings. But this time was different. This time she was there not as a reporter but as an American who needs help.

Donna and Larry Smith have been married for 29 years. They have six children.

Larry Smith is tall and athletic. He takes good care of his health. Unfortunately, he inherited some bad genes; his arteries clog. He had his first heart bypass surgery when he was 47 years old and his second one a year later.

Everything was fine for almost 11 years. Then, about a year ago, Larry started feeling constant, debilitating pain in his legs and hips.

Larry works at a casino in the Black Hills. He was a machinist all his working life, but he switched to cashier because he couldn't take the walking involved in his old job; it hurt too much.

Last February, he had a stent placed in his heart. His doctors determined that the pain was being caused by a build-up of plaque in Larry's arteries. They said the only place he could find a vascular surgeon skilled enough to clear the blockages was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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